



Vol. 2, No. 4 July 2004

Welcome to The Bench Press

This newsletter is published to provide information about current events, initiatives, programs and projects of interest to employees of the Arizona's Judicial Branch.

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Newest Court Center Focused on Children and Families

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Maricopa County Durango Juvenile Court and Detention Facility

After a wait of nearly 30 years, Juvenile Court is celebrating its move from a deteriorating building that has become overcrowded and outdated to a center with high-tech courtrooms and a state-of-the-art juvenile detention facility that is better suited to meet the needs of children and families of Maricopa County. [More]

Superior Court in Pinal County: A Fixed Figure No More

Picking up stakes and moving on

The last time these court employees moved from one courthouse to another was in the early 1960s. [More]

Achievement Awards 2004

Justice for a Better Arizona

The Arizona Supreme Court Achievement Awards symbolize uncounted hours of dedicated public service. The ultimate goal, which we are meeting with the innovative leadership of our award winners, is service to the public and the cause of justice. [More]

Superior Court Pilots E-filing for Probate Cases

Pilot Expected to Reduce Paperwork

The Pima County Superior Court and the Clerk of the Superior Court launched a pilot project on May 12 designed to reduce the amount of paperwork filed in probate cases. [More]

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Superior Court in Maricopa County Juvenile Court Celebrates New Building

Newest Court Center Focused on Children and Families

Submitted by Damian Aros, public information officer, Superior Court in Maricopa County



Ribbon Cutting (standing, from left): Chief Justice Charles Jones, Vice Chief Justice Ruth McGregor, Eric Iczkowski, Max Wilson, and Cheryln Townsend, Juvenile Court Administrator.

Maricopa County Durango Juvenile Court and Detention Facility, 3131 W. Durango, Phoenix.

After a wait of nearly 30 years, Juvenile Court celebrated its move from a deteriorating building that was overcrowded and outdated to a center with hightech courtrooms and a state-of-the-art juvenile detention facility better suited to meet the needs of Maricopa County's children and families.

Judges, Maricopa County officials and juvenile probation and detention staff opened the doors to the new 263,000 square foot courthouse and expanded detention center at 3131 W. Durango on July 12.

The \$38 million construction project provides 12 courtrooms and 220 additional detention beds, which is significantly larger than the original facility, built in 1975 with eight courtrooms and 101 beds. In addition to the added space, the threestory courthouse features cutting edge design, technology and amenities.

The courthouse includes offices for Court Administration, Juvenile Probation Court Services, Court Appointed Special Advocate, the Clerk of the Court, the Public Defender, the County Attorney, and Court Security.

Juvenile Court serves children and families involved in delinguency, dependency, and adoption cases. Judges and staff at the facility will also be handling two Integrated Family Court calendars, which combine dependency cases involving children who have been taken out of the home because of abuse or neglect and Family Court cases to better address the needs of the family.

The project was made possible through funds from a 1998 county jail tax. In addition to improvements at the Juvenile Court Center, Durango Facility, jail taxes also funded Improvements at the Juvenile Court, Southeast Facility, in Mesa, where juvenile detention facilities were expanded and courtrooms were renovated. The tax also funded the construction of the county's first juvenile residential treatment facility, specializing in mental health and substance abuse treatment. That facility opened in May 2003.



Cheryln Townsend, **Director, Juvenile Court** Services





Carolyn Edlund. **Juvenile Court** Administrator





Hon. Charles E. Jones. **Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice**



David Smith, Maricopa County Administrative Officer Michael Smith, Associate Principal, Cannon Design Speaker, Regeanna Mwansa, "Hope for the Future" Max Wilson, Supervisor, District 4, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

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Speaker, Eric Iczkowski

Superior Court in Pinal County

Picking up stakes and moving on

A Fixed Figure No More

Submitted by Joe Pyritz, public information officer, Superior Court in Pinal County

It's not every day that Pinal County court employees pick up stakes and make a move. In fact, the last time court employees made a move from one courthouse to another was in the early 1960s. Now, more than 40 years and countless trials later, employees of the Superior Court in Pinal County have packed up the files, put down the gavels, and headed east.

This wasn't a move that was handled over the weekend. The actual moving out and moving in took nearly two weeks of eight-hour days. "It was hard work for everyone but worth it," commented Pinal County Clerk of the Court Kristi Youtsey Ruiz. "We have more space to serve the public."



Clerk of the Court, Kristi Ruiz, and Kim Johnson load boxes during the move from Pinal County's old courthouse to the new courthouse dedicated last month.

Moving the tons of files, books and evidence from the limited vault space in the old courthouse to the new courthouse offered employees a look into Pinal County's past. One vault contained more than 500 docket books, with some dating back to territorial days. Located in another vault were 950 boxes of court reporter files; some of the files had dates from the 1940s.

While the work was dusty, hot, and sometimes tedious, the knowledge that more room would be available made the toiling worthwhile. The old courthouse had 35,000 inches of files that took up a majority of the space in the vaults; the new courthouse can handle 64,000 inches of files.

The new 145,000 square foot courthouse can hold up to 3,000 people. The previously used courthouse had 30,000 square feet of space. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors dedicated the building on Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2004

JUSTICE FOR A BETTER ARIZONA AWARDS PROTECTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Winners have demonstrated substantial or creative contributions in helping courts protect Arizona's children, families and communities by providing them with an independent, neutral forum for resolving disputes; dispensing justice in a fair and equitable manner; improving how children and families are served in issues of family law; ensuring that juvenile detention facilities are available, safe and secure; or by delivering probation services providing public protection and offender accountability.

Glynn O. Thomas, probation officer, Adult Probation, Superior Court in Maricopa County



Glynn Thomas (left) is given award by Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Jones.

Typically the court does not allow adult probationers to serve as informants in police investigations; however, when a probationer who was positioned to provide information leading to multiple arrests impacting organized crime wanted to assist the FBI, the court granted permission as long as the probationer would continue to be under probation supervision during the investigation. The FBI agreed and requested the assignment of a supervising probation officer with a particular background and characteristics, and Glynn Thomas was selected based on this profile. Thomas took on this risky assignment knowing that he needed to preserve the security of the investigation in order to protect the people involved. The timing and location of his contact with the probationer were consistently coordinated with the FBI agents so as not to interfere with their activities in the investigation.

Throughout his six-month involvement in this operation Thomas was conscientious and cooperative with the court and other agencies, performing his job admirably and courageously. The FBI agents involved sent a letter to the chief probation officer to express their appreciation for Thomas' contributions to the success of the operation,

which resulted in significant arrests within the criminal enterprise. Thomas deserves recognition for his substantial contribution toward the Court's goal of protecting the community.

Superior Court in Maricopa County's Juvenile Probation Department Program, "Fight Back With Love: Every Adult Has a Responsibility to Prevent Bullying"



Chief Justice Jones hands award to Juvenile Services Division Staff, Superior Court in Maricopa County.

for future reference:

When the Juvenile Probation Department introduced a video for use in schools that discusses the problem of bullying, schools across Maricopa County responded to the Department's needs assessment with an overwhelming request for assistance in adult understanding of bullying and why it is a seed behavior for aggression and violence against others and self.

With monies from a discretionary Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grant, the Department created "Fight Back With Love: Every Adult Has a Responsibility to Prevent Bullying." This is a research based tool in content and methodology, available in English and Spanish. It includes:

Two age-specific videos designed to illuminate concepts and provoke an emotional response in the viewers;

- a video viewing guide duplication master containing all of the script content is available
- curriculum materials to guide a facilitator in managing a small group discussion following the videotape and for finding additional resources for handouts and research; and,
- web support is available through a link on the agency's web page, which is updated with new research and documents translated into Spanish.

Each video includes footage of 102 students from 42 different schools in Maricopa County interacting in ways that illuminate how

bullying destroys confidence and builds anger. In each language there is a video that covers the typical bullying behaviors of students in grades K-6 and another one that covers the typical behaviors of students in grades 6-12.

These sets have been given to every school and every school district in Maricopa County including public, charter, and private schools -- from preschool to twelfth grade. They have been featured at several professional discipline conferences for prevention specialists, social workers, mental health professionals and every discipline focusing on children.

Response has been strong. As a result of coverage on Channel 12's midday show and in the Arizona Republic, requests have been filled for every school in Cochise County 12 states across the country and Mexico. This resource was even accepted as a listed feature on the National Bullying Prevention Campaign's database of recommended resources through HRSA.

You may review the Study Guide and other related materials at http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/juvenileProb/bullying/index.asp. (The sets are free to anyone who requests them.)

SMI Unit, Adult Probation Department, Superior Court in Maricopa County



Susan Stodola and Steve Lessard, SMI Unit, Adult Probation Department, Superior Court in Maricopa County, accept award for SMI Unit.

The Seriously Mentally III (SMI) Unit provides exceptional, specialized probation supervision of 500 SMI offenders and has developed exciting new services to better manage this population. Probation officers closely monitor and manage reduced caseloads of 40 probationers. Unit members possess a strong working knowledge of psychiatric disorders and the mental health system. Dedicated advocacy is their norm; they help probationers access mental health services that they may never receive otherwise. The officers work closely with case managers, doctors and service providers to actively monitor probationers' treatment, compliance, and behavior. SMI Unit officers have continuously improved service by identifying gaps and developing important resources. Through a collaborative effort, they have assisted in developing and operating emergency housing (eight plus beds), transitional housing (six, two-bedroom units), a conditional jail release program (average daily population of 34) and the Mental Health Court.

SMI probationers receive tremendous assistance to improve their lives and complete probation successfully. All of the programming developed, coupled with active case management, enables SMI probationers to function in the community and participate in community-based treatment and reduces the use of incarceration to manage the mentally ill. More than 1,800 jail days were saved in fiscal year 2003. The Mental Health Court assures regular collaboration to address problems that challenge SMI probationers' progress on probation. Unique and timely solutions are found while probationers are held accountable for participation in treatment and other court requirements.

The SMI Unit consistently provides an effective, ethical and balanced approach that holds offenders accountable, keeps communities safe, and provides treatment and services to a challenging, high-need offender group.

Providing Access to Swift, Fair Justice

Winners have demonstrated substantial or creative contributions in helping citizens, victims, litigants and defendants obtain access to a fair and swift process for resolving civil or criminal disputes; ensuring that resources are adequate; and, ensuring court procedures, policies and practices are consistent with providing access to swift, fair justice.

"One-Stop" Service Environment, City of Phoenix Municipal Court



Staff from City of Phoenix Municipal Court receive award from Chief Justice.

The City of Phoenix Municipal Court, with its state-of-the-art facility in the downtown campus, has developed creative solutions in a variety of areas to ensure access to swift, fair justice. The court's "One-Stop" Service Environment for citizens, victims, litigants, and defendants exemplifies this effort. While at the court, individuals have access to the following services in one convenient location:

Onsite office of the Motor Vehicle Division of ADOT, which allows defendants to change or correct their driver's license information as ordered by the court without leaving the building;

"walk-in" service for individuals requesting to see a judge (no appointment necessary);

videophone links with the city's Family Advocacy Center and the DeColores family shelter that allows domestic violence victims to request orders of protection without leaving their protective environment;

- bilingual victim advocate from the Sojourner Center available in the Orders of Protection office;
- interpretation services for more than 50 different languages, including American Sign Language;
- financial enforcement officers to assist with payment plans;

- payment conveniences including an ATM and point-of-sale machines for processing credit card payments;
- work alternative program scheduling;
- access to screeners for referral to substance abuse or domestic violence education and/or treatment programs; and,
- Maricopa County adult probation officers who monitor domestic violence offenders are onsite, which provides easy access to court services.

This "One-Stop" service concept provides dual benefits. Defendants and victims receive the benefit of convenient access to a variety of court-related services, payment options, and other conveniences while the court receives the benefit of enhanced case processing and improved customer service.

Taken in combination, these creative innovations in customer service, payment processing, and case processing support the court's mission of "Justice through Excellence" by providing adequate resources and by ensuring access to a swift and fair judicial process.

Swift, Fair Justice at the State's Highest Court, Supreme Court Staff Attorneys



Arizona Supreme Court Staff Attorneys.

During the past year, the Staff Attorneys' Office at the Arizona Supreme Court has made a commitment to completing every Petition for Review or Special Action within 90 days of the filing of the action.

The ultimate goal, which has been achieved, was to enable the Justices to issue their decision to accept or deny review in all cases within four months after the filing of the action. This result has been achieved through teamwork and creative use of technology without diminishing the individualized attention that is at all times given to each litigant's case.

This achievement by the 10 attorneys, three legal assistants and law student externs of the Staff Attorneys' Office represents a standard of swift, fair justice that is exemplary among the appellate courts of the nation. The benefit to the litigants and public is in reducing the uncertainty, inconvenience, expense and other dislocations incurred while awaiting the ultimate resolution of cases on appeal.

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Winners have demonstrated substantial or creative contributions to implementing programs that improve how the Arizona Judicial Branch listens to communities; establishing effective methods of communication between citizens and courts; or by providing education or learning opportunities that increase public awareness about the court system.

Cochise County Juvenile Detention Education, Superior Court in Cochise County



Cochise County Juvenile Detention Education Project Staff, Superior Court in Cochise County, accept award from Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court's third agenda, "Connecting With The Community," promotes communication with the public and other branches of government. In collaboration with the superintendent of county schools, Cochise County Juvenile Detention Education accomplishes this agenda through grant funded and grassroots programs, allowing community members and local agencies to participate in the education and rehabilitation of Cochise County's most at-risk youth.

The Supreme Court encourages courts to, "Effectively communicate with the communities we serve to ensure continuous improvement of the court in its service." In partnership wit the county superintendent of schools, Detention Education was awarded the Transition Outcomes Project (TOP) grant in 2002, making it one of the first detention education programs in the country to participate in this nationally known project. As a result of its participation in TOP, Detention Education has increased parent involvement in IEP meetings of detained youth by 50 percent. Participation from other local community agencies in transition planning of youth with disabilities increased from zero percent to 100 percent. The detention education team also conducts weekly "guest speaker" days, allowing community members and agency

representatives to provide guidance and information on local resources for detained youth. Detention Education welcomes community volunteers in the classroom. Five community members volunteer in the education program, helping students and learning how the court educates detained youth.

In an effort to inform the public about its program, the education team conducts presentations at local conferences and organizations. To date, the team has presented the program to Special Education Administrators of Southeastern Arizona, the SMILE conference, the Sierra Vista Rotary Club, and the Cochise County Monthly Networking Breakfast. Upcoming presentations include the national EDJJ (Education and Disability in Juvenile Justice) conference in Denver, and the Arizona Department of Education Transition conference in Phoenix. A highlight of 2004 was a visit from acclaimed poet Jimmy Santiago Baca. The Detention Education team

coordinated the collaboration with Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services and Cochise College to bring Dr. Baca from New Mexico for two lectures, one in detention and one at Chochise College; both were open to the public.

Community Rehabilitation Housing Program, Adult Probation Department, Superior Court in Maricopa County



Robert Kaliszczjk, manager, CRHP, Adult Probation Department, receives award from Chief Justice Charles Jones.

The goals of the Community Rehabilitation Housing Program (CRHP) are to teach adult probationers skills in the residential construction field that can lead to employment and provide a means for rehabilitating and expanding buildings of community-based service providers in low-income and distressed neighborhoods. The CRHP has a full-time licensed contractor who supervises and teaches the construction trade to probationers who are ordered by the court to complete community service as a condition of probation. Since 2000, the program has completed more than 20 projects that have saved taxpayers and community service agencies more than \$2 million in construction costs. Additionally, more than 30 probationers have obtained full-time construction employment.

The program is based on restorative justice principles whereby offenders attempt to repair the harm caused to the community as a result of their crimes. Many of the probationers in the program are assigned by Drug Court. The Restorative Justice Resource Coalition (RJRC) often selects projects and supplies materials and equipment for the program. This 501(c)(3) corporation is comprised of private citizens who work closely with probation, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and city, county and federal governments to support programs such as CRHP.

CRHP projects have included:

- CASS Homeless Shelter, Sunnyslope
- Sunnyslope Historical Society
- Roeser House Teen Outreach, Phoenix (converted a two bedroom "crack house" into a six bedroom residential/education center)
- Booker T. Washington Headstart, Phoenix
- Alhambra Headstart, Phoenix
- Guadalupe Headstart

The CRHP demonstrates to the public a unique court program that blends consequence and opportunity for the offender with restoration for the community. This program is easily duplicated in other jurisdictions that have dedicated citizens, such as those of the RJRC, and a commitment by the court and probation department.

Juvenile Court Volunteer Program, Superior Court in Pinal County



Pinal County Presiding Juvenile Judge Gilberto Figueroa; Donna McBride, volunteer coordinator; and, Chris Varner, regional director.

Volunteering is one of the most popular activities in our society. Americans regularly become involved in some type of volunteer activity that provides more than 19 billion hours worth of donated time a year valued at more than \$150 billion per year. While most volunteers give their time to nonprofit agencies, nearly 18 percent are connected to some form of government. Over the past decade alone, volunteering for government has been one of the fastest growing areas of volunteer involvement.

With that in mind, Juvenile Court Director, Diane McGinnis, created several positions to help utilize the expertise of volunteers in Pinal County. A volunteer coordinator and a community liaison officer were hired to help develop an agency-wide program and provide opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the work of Juvenile Justice in all 15 Pinal communities and all three Juvenile Court offices (Apache Junction, Casa Grande, and Florence).

Pinal County Juvenile Court Services now has 44 volunteers in addition to 24 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and 59 Community Work Service

sites. Volunteers are represented on the Community Advisory Board (CAB), the Restorative Justice Panels, in the detention facility, and general office assistance at the Florence location.

Creating a volunteer program meant organizing and implementing guidelines so that all volunteers were screened and approved to work on behalf of the court. In order to do this, a volunteer application process was developed. All volunteers are required to submit

an application, be fingerprinted, agree to a background review, sign a drug-free workplace form and a volunteer agreement form. Individual interviews determine which volunteer opportunity is best for them. Each volunteer is provided with an identification badge for security purposes.

Volunteers work with the court through Community Advisory Boards (CAB), Restorative Justice Panels, Detention Faith-Based Programs, Community Service Work Sites, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and Foster Care Program.

Being Accountable

Winners have demonstrated substantial or creative contributions in using taxpayer resources wisely to achieve desired results; establishing and meeting court standards; linking performance with budget; maintaining ongoing strategic planning; and, continuing and enhancing judicial performance review.

MVD Computer Interface, City of Phoenix Municipal Court



(Middle) Judge B. Robert Dorfman, Chief Presiding Judge, City of Phoenix Municipal Court.

The City of Phoenix Municipal Court began participating in the Arizona Department of Revenue's (DOR) Debt Setoff Program in November 2002. To participate in the program, courts must provide DOR with social security numbers and other debtor information, which DOR then matches with individuals who qualify for refunds or lottery winnings and provides that information to the court to confirm the match. Upon confirmation, DOR sends a notice to the debtor that their tax refund or lottery winning has been intercepted. Additionally, to increase collections, the court notifies the debtor when the initial claim is sent to DOR.

Since social security numbers are not always included on existing court records, the Phoenix Municipal Court used several innovative methods to obtain information such as: Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) record checks; credit bureau checks; collection and booking agency information; and, bankruptcy information.

For the initial submission of names for interception, social security numbers had be manually obtained by staff, one at a time, through MVD and credit bureau checks which was time and labor intensive. To solve this problem, a computer interface with MVD was developed and is now run daily. (The Phoenix Municipal Court was the first Arizona court to develop an electronic interface to obtain social security numbers from MVD.)

Upon implementation of the interface, the court was able to increase the dollar amount of claims submitted to the DOR by 80 percent, from \$41,000,000 to \$74,000,000. To date, the MVD interface has provided more than 130,000 social security numbers which has greatly reduced the manual process. This interface has been a key factor in the court's collection through court notices and interceptions of approximately \$2,300,000 in unpaid financial sentences since November 2002. In addition, the interface exemplifies how taxpayer resources are being used wisely to achieve desired results at the City of Phoenix.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS IMPROVING PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE AWARD

Winners of this award will have accomplished an outstanding achievement in improving public trust and confidence in the courts by inspiring confidence that individual rights are being protected and ensuring that all citizens are being treated fairly. Achievements may be through the judge's judicial or administrative efforts in providing education or training; implementing projects or programs in the judge's court, or in other state courts; or, supporting the strategic initiatives of Justice for a Better Arizona, or other demonstrated achievement in this area. Nomination may be for a specific project or effort, or for multiple projects or efforts throughout the judge's career.

Honorable H. Jeffrey Coker, Coconino County Superior Court



Judge H. Jeffrey Coker, Superior Court in Coconino County.

Judge H. Jeffrey Coker has been on the Coconino County Superior Court bench for almost 20 years. In his long and distinguished tenure, he has made tremendous contributions to both Coconino County Superior Court and the statewide justice system, which have improved judicial administration and public trust and confidence in the courts.

As presiding judge of juvenile court from 1987-1994, he chaired the Committee on Juvenile Courts. Then as presiding judge of the superior court from 1991 to 2002, Judge Coker tirelessly brought the rural perspective to numerous committees of the Supreme Court and served on the Arizona Judicial Council for six years. As a member of two jury practices and procedures committees, he was instrumental in improving the jury system statewide. Judge Coker also has served as the co-chair of the Minute Entry Reform Committee.

His many contributions to the Coconino County Superior Court include:

- Coordinating the renovation and restoration of the historic courthouse in Flagstaff, 1994-2002;
- obtaining funds to implement a DUI/Drug Court;
- leading Justice 2020, a project that created a vision for justice in Coconino County and a strategic plan for the courts with the
 active participation of local justice system stakeholders and citizens. As part of Justice 2020, Judge Coker held a minority
 Citizen's Town Hall, which Chief Justice Charles Jones attended.
- Developing effective caseflow management systems for civil, criminal and domestic relations cases;
- adding a part-time judge pro tem to assist with delinquency and dependency cases, a position that is now full-time;
- obtaining funding to add a fifth division of superior court;
- developing a local rule that allows judges to participate in plea negotiations, later adopted as a statewide rule;
- establishing an Alternative Dispute Resolution Program;
- establishing the first combined self help center/law library/legal aid office; and,
- founding Teen Court (the second in the state).

During Judge Coker's tenure as presiding judge, superior court won two Justice for a Better Arizona awards for its criminal case processing system and for its Justice 2020 project.

Administration of Justice Award

Winners have accomplished an outstanding achievement in the administration of justice by improving services to those who use the court system including jurors, witnesses, litigants, attorneys and defendants; improving court facilities; enhancing services to pro se litigants; facilitating access to the courts; improving accountability; or, supporting the strategic initiatives of Justice for a Better Arizona, or other demonstrated achievement in this area. Nomination may be for a specific project or effort, or for multiple projects or efforts during the individual's career in court administration.

James R. Scorza, Court Administrator, City of Phoenix Municipal Court



James R. Scorza, executive court administrator, City of Phoenix Municipal Court.

James Scorza has served the court executive administrator for the Phoenix Municipal Court for more than a decade. Over the years, Scorza, along with his Presiding Judge, Bob Dorfman, has been a steady hand in reforming and improving the state's largest municipal court. Each year nearly 400,000 cases are filed with the Phoenix Municipal Court. It has been Scorza's job to make sure the court has sufficient staff, judicial resources, jurors, and courtrooms to handle the workload and to provide good customer service to those who come to the court.

Scorza has seen many changes during his tenure with the court. He has seen the court's reputation for enforcing court orders and court collections change from one of the worst courts in the state to one of the best. He was part of the management team that worked with city officials to develop a plan to build a new court facility. The Phoenix City Court was housed in an old school facility that was ill-suited for court use, and scheduled for demolition because of its poor condition. The court is now located in one of the most attractive buildings in downtown Phoenix and is a model of court house design and use.

He also is a member of the Limited Jurisdiction Oversight Council of Maricopa County. The Council, chaired by Presiding Judge Colin Campbell, serves as a steering committee for developing policy and procedures for all limited jurisdiction courts in Maricopa County. Scorza is a highly respected, contributing member of this Council.

While Scorza has accomplished a lot, he is not yet finished "doing his job." Last summer the Supreme Court announced the FARE initiative and he was one of the first to volunteer his court as a "pioneer court." This project takes court order enforcement to another level and Scorza, as expected, wants to be a front-runner in this effort.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COURTS AWARD

Winners have made an outstanding contribution to the courts by improving public trust and confidence in the courts; improving judicial administration; supporting the strategic initiatives of Justice for a Better Arizona, or other demonstrated achievements in these areas. Nomination may be for a specific project or effort, or for multiple projects or efforts.

Honorable Fred L. Peterson

As the presiding judge for the Snowflake Justice Court, the honorable Fred Peterson is the most recognizable public figure in that part of Navajo County, Arizona. He not only serves as the presiding justice of the peace for Navajo County, but also as president of the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association. He is a member of the Limited Jurisdiction Courts' New Judges Orientation Committee and of the Arizona Judicial Council.

He holds a masters degree in counseling and human relations and has served on the Snowflake Town Council. He is a virtual icon in the community because of his leadership, family values, and gentle nature. Because of his outstanding public service and distinguished reputation, he was nominated for, and won, the highest award of the National Judges Association, the 2004 Kenneth L. MacEachern Memorial Award.

Justice courts are "best practices" courts according to Judge Peterson. He stresses that, within their diverse communities, justice courts must provide for the uniformity that the law requires. He sincerely believes that no one is more interested in setting higher standards than the justices of the peace themselves. He advocates for higher qualifications for justices of the peace, upholding the integrity of the office and always walking the ethical line.

Honorable William B. Sutton Jr.



Hon. William Sutton Jr. receives award from Arizona Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Ruth McGregor.

As a judge at the Williams City Court and as the Presiding Justice of the Peace in Coconino County, the Honorable William Sutton's many contributions to his community include: organizing and monitoring an Alcohol Impact Panel, which addresses the issues of illegal consumption of alcohol by minors; organizing and supervising a work force of convicted violators to provide community service work at various locations throughout the community; organizing a tobacco education forum, which provides violators of the tobacco statutes with information about the harmful effects tobacco can have on the body; and, working with the Williams School District to provide support services such as You be the Judge, and values education and reading enjoyment programs.

A native Arizonan, Judge Sutton was instilled with an unending drive to achieve excellence by a high school English teacher. After high school, he funneled his energies into his college education, working as a school bus driver, delivering newspapers and working for the forest service until, in 1977, he achieved a B.S. in education from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

His nine year teaching career ended when he followed in his father's footsteps and became a Justice of the Peace in 1991. Judge Sutton's jurisdiction in Coconino County is about 6,000 square miles and, with a staff of six, whom he describes as "The backbone of the court," he handles more than 5,000 cases per year.

He is part of the local Justice 2020 Project and a member of a committee that recently formed a drug court for the county. Judge Sutton also is a member of the Arizona Judicial Council, which assists the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice in the development and implementation of policies and procedures for the administration of all courts, uniformity in court operations and coordination of court services that will improve the administration of justice in the state of Arizona. He is a past president of the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association and a recipient of the National Judges Association Kenneth L. MacEachern Award as the finest non-lawyer judge in America.

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Superior Court in Pima County

Pilot Project Begins

Superior Court Pilots E-filing for Probate Cases

By Dave Ricker, Community Relations, Arizona Superior Court in Pima County

The Superior Court in Pima County and the clerk of the court launched a pilot project on May 12 designed to reduce the amount of paperwork filed in probate cases. The clerk's office began accepting the e-filing of court documents from a pair of volunteer, private law firms that practice primarily in the area of probate law. "We held two large meetings for attorneys that practice in the probate area. We had several people who said they would be willing to be our guinea pigs," said Clerk of the Superior Court in Pima County Patti Noland. The Public Fiduciary's Office was added to the project June 1, and in late June or early July, the clerk's office expects to accept the e-filing of probate documents for everyone, except for mental health case filings.

Benefits

Besides reducing the amount of documents that are handled in hardcopy paper form, Noland suggested that participating attorneys would welcome, "The ease of filing, being able to file any time of the day or night and not having to leave the office. That's especially true for those law firms located outside of the downtown area."

Judge Clark Munger, presiding judge of the superior court probate bench, compared the glut of paperwork the court deals with to the television advertisement that shows several business people sitting around a table trying to figure out how to cut costs when one of them points at stacks of reports and other papers and asks the question. "What about all of this stuff?"

When it is fully implemented, the e-filing system is expected to result in much of the probate caseload at the court becoming digital. "This system is virtually paperless," said Noland. "Cases will move through the process quicker because everybody will be online from us to the probate counsel to the judges."

Probate Registrar Cindy Linnertz agreed that e-filing would expedite the probate process, "After we get through the learning curve.... We won't have the person at the counter to deal with so the clerk can come in each morning and review all of the e-filings at their desk."

Logical starting place

Noland said the probate caseload was the logical place to start e-filing practices for two specific reasons, "Number one, it is a specialized, contained area of the law and [number two] we have Judge Munger who is technologically up-to-date and willing to try new things."

E-filing is not new to Arizona, it has been in place at the Superior Court in Maricopa County for a while. "Maricopa County's [e-filing system] was due to a committee that was put together by the Supreme Court on complex civil litigation and one of the recommendations out of that committee, on which I served, was that Maricopa and Pima Counties be the pilot courts for online filing of complex cases," Noland said. "Pima chose not to do that. Now we're going to start here and get it running smoothly and I look toward expanding to other areas."

There will be a few changes to the way in which probate cases are handled. "The imaging system that we have now and e-filing will directly impact how I do my job," said Judge Munger. "For instance, I was just writing a minute entry regarding a motion for summary judgment and I was working off of the imaging system, not off of the hard-copy file; I find that to be much faster and very easy. It eliminates having somebody in the courthouse shuffle files around."

There will be changes in courtrooms, as well. "The commissioner's courtrooms and my courtroom will each have a computer and there will be two screens so that we will be able to run dual programs," said Judge Munger. "On the bench, when a case is called, I'll have the paper file in front of me and I'll have had a chance to look through it before the hearing. One of the parties may walk in and present an order, I'll sign it and it will go on its way. Under this new system, I will have on one computer screen the imaging system so that I can look at all of the case documents and on the other screen, I can call up the e-file records for that case so that between those two screens, I'll have a complete record. If one of the parties has e-filed a proposed order, I can electronically sign that order on the bench at the end of the hearing."

E-runner

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Filings will also be distributed electronically to the appropriate parties as a part of the filing services. "All of the documents will get electronically distributed." said Noland.

LexisNexis, based in Springfield, Ohio, is the e-filing company the clerk's office has been working with on the project. "The attorneys will contract with LexisNexis. They are what I call an electronic runner," said Noland. "Attorneys will file everything with LexisNexis. They pay LexisNexis' filing fees and then LexisNexis passes it on to us."

Noland said that eventually other commercial providers might participate in the e-filing project. "They don't have an exclusive right," she said, referring to LexisNexis. "If another business offers e-filing, and it is compatible with our systems and people want to use them, then we would accept that company as an e-filing provider."

Pro pers

Eventually, people who represent themselves in probate matters will be able to file their case documents using e-filing. "We will have a PC available in an area where individuals can come down to our office and do their electronic filing," Noland said.

Judge Munger said that probate cases were chosen as the pilot project for e-filing for obvious reasons. "Probate is probably an ideal arena to start in, we have a group of lawyers out there who are ready, willing and technologically able to handle this system."

Judge Munger also predicted that lawyers might soon walk into a court hearing carrying a laptop computer rather than a paper case file. "That whole file will be in the memory of that computer," he said.

Noland is optimistic that the e-filing project will be welcomed by participants, but she cautioned, "It's going to be a bit of a culture change."

Judge Munger also is confident that the e-filing pilot project will be successful, saying, "This is Patti's project and I think she deserves the credit for advancing this issue."

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Tucson City Court

What It Has Meant To Be A Pioneer Court In FARE

Submitted by Becky A. Williams, administrative services manager, Tucson City Court

About this time last year, Tucson City Court became a pioneer court in the FARE project. With little knowledge of what it meant to be a pioneer court, a select group of individuals made the trip to Phoenix to learn more about our role in the project. It turned out to be not only one trip to learn about our role, but three trips a week through the month of July and into August. Often we would play "tag team" to ensure that we would have the proper representation at the various meetings and sub-meetings. I found this time very exhausting, but also very exhilarating. In my previous 17 years of employment with the court, I had never been involved in a project of this scale.

Looking back over the last year, many people have put a lot work and effort into the project all the way from the AOC and ACS to our city's Information Technology Department to our own staff here at Tucson City Court. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be part of a project from "the ground up" and to be able to explain as part of training or information sharing, why certain decisions were made. The project has also given many of us the opportunity to work with new people and new ideas, which has been refreshing. We have received a tremendous amount of support from the AOC, which has not only benefited us directly in the area of the FARE project, but also in other areas that have surfaced as a result of the way we do business, which may impact FARE in the future.

The FARE project has been successful in collecting unpaid fines and fees. When we began to submit cases in August 2003, we saw immediate results. By the end of August, just two weeks after the first batch of cases was submitted, over \$6,000 had been collected. Since that time, we have seen a steady increase in money collected on these cases with the month of January 2004 hitting a peak dollar amount of \$220,000. As of June 30, 2004, more than \$1.5 million has been collected on backlog cases that have been submitted to FARE.

As we move toward the future, the FARE project will continue to bring not only change to our court, but to the other courts throughout Arizona. Though I know that these changes may bring about issues that we will need to address as they come up, I also know that these same changes can and will improve the way we do business.

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Superior Court in Maricopa County

Jury Duty a Shuttle Ride Away

Improving Jury Service

Submitted by Karin Philips, community outreach director, Trial Courts of Maricopa County

Let's say you've just received notice to report for jury service, you're unsure of where to park and where to go, and it's 110 degrees outside. Stay cool, it's not going to be as bad as you think.

A weekday shuttle service is available from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., picking up jurors at the Jackson Street Garage at 5th Avenue and Jackson Street where parking is free for jurors. The shuttle drops the jurors off at the 3rd Avenue entrance of the West Court Building where the Jury Assembly Room is located.

"We recognized that the walk between the garage and the West Court Building can be arduous for some, especially in unpleasant weather." said Bob James, director of Jury Management for the Trial Courts of Arizona in Maricopa County. It's about four blocks from the garage to the West Court Building.

"We continually try to improve the convenience of jury service, and this is yet another example of that effort," he added.

In operation since September 2003, the free shuttle service is funded through the Juror Donation Fund, which receives monies from jurors who donate their jury fees for the betterment of jury service.

Since the operation began, more than 14,700 jurors have used the shuttle.

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Superior Court in Maricopa County

Program to Help the Mentally III is Recognized

Top National Honor Goes to Adult Probation Department

Submitted by Karin Philips, community outreach director, Trial Courts of Maricopa County

National probation experts honored a successful program implemented by the Adult Probation Department in Maricopa County that focuses on assuring treatment and assistance to people who are mentally ill, commit crimes, and are put on probation.

The award – the prestigious President's Award from the American Probation and Parole Association – will be presented next month at the Association's 29th Annual Training Institute.

"The Adult Probation Department established its first specialized caseload of seriously mentally ill probationers over 20 years ago," said Chief Probation Officer Barbara Broderick. "It would be fair to say that we are in the forefront, a leader among probation agencies in providing specialized supervision and programming for this population."

The Seriously Mentally III (SMI) Program is a unique community corrections effort designed specifically to assist offenders dealing with serious mental health problems and challenges. A key element of the program is assigning probation officers, who are selected through a rigorous interview process, to work with mentally ill probationers and assist them in completing a successful probationary period. These officers help probationers access the treatment and services they need and monitor and support their progress. This approach diminishes the likelihood of further criminal involvement. Officers work continuously to improve service through education, resource development, networking, collaboration, and new programming.

"I believe that the strong point of the program is the staff," said Sue Stodola, SMI supervisor for nearly five years. "The SMI officers are especially dedicated. They are addressing the needs of a very demanding population. Often our clients are homeless." She said they often do not have access to agencies that provide medication, counseling, or day-to-day assistance.

Probationers in the program include adults 18 and older with psychiatric diagnoses and functional impairment that prevents them from practicing good hygiene, keeping a job and other challenges that keep them from assimilating in the mainstream of the community. Some suffer autism, retardation, severe learning disability and traumatic brain injury. Approximately 85 percent of the probationers are dual-diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder as well as a mental illness.

Those who have committed sex crimes or crimes of domestic violence are assessed to determine the area of greatest risk and then a co-supervisory approach is established to secure resources and monitor behavior accordingly.

The unit has an average monthly population of 500 ongoing cases.

A fairly new component of the program is the Mental Health Court, in Superior Court in Maricopa County. Mental Health Court handles probation violation matters and holds status conferences to monitor compliance of probationers. A special team, well versed in issues affecting SMI probationers, works together to address issues that arise. The team consists of the judge, probation officer, deputy public defender, deputy county attorney and community treatment provider.

"The Mental Health Court has provided an arena for improved communication between all of the agencies which affect this very needy population. The goal is to ensure that appropriate, individualized treatment is provided," said Judge Carey Snyder Hyatt, who presides over the Mental Health Court. "The SMI Unit is vital to this team and they make these goals achievable."

The APPA President's Award was established in 1993 "to recognize outstanding community corrections programs that serve to advance the knowledge, effectiveness, and integrity of the system." Recipients are regarded as "visionary" organizations that exemplify the "management and innovations necessary to lead corrections into the next decade."

The American Probation and Parole Association is an international non-profit organization committed to innovative and effective probation, parole and community-based correctional programming.

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Superior Court in Maricopa County

New Hires

Stories submitted by Karin Philips, community outreach director, Trial Courts of Maricopa County

Former Deputy County Attorney Appointed Commissioner

Steven P. Lynch is a newly appointed commissioner with the Trial Courts of Maricopa County and is currently working with the Initial Appearance Court.

Lynch spent his childhood in Washington, D.C., before attending the University of Michigan, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in political science in 1986. He earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Virginia's School of Law in 1989 and joined the Phoenix law firm of O'Connor, Cavanagh that year, specializing in insurance defense and commercial litigation.

Between 1991 and 1999, and again from 2001 through 2004, he served as a Deputy Maricopa County Attorney. During part of his career, he also served as general counsel for the Arizona Department of Corrections, advising senior staff on legal issues and assisting with all litigation filed against or on behalf of the department.

Lynch is a member of the Arizona State Bar Criminal Jury Instruction Committee and is chairperson of the Awards Committee of the American Bar Association's Government Lawyers Division.

Judge Arellano Named Southeast Courts' Presiding Judge

On June 28, Judge Silvia Arellano took over the reins as presiding judge of the Southeast Facility in Mesa.

Her duties include administrative responsibilities, criminal case transfers and responding to public and staff inquiries regarding the Trial Courts of Maricopa County. She also oversees the Southeast Valley Justice Courts.

Arellano is chairwoman of the Arizona Minority Judges Caucus and a member of Los Abogados, the Hispanic Bar Association. She served as superior court's representative on the City of Phoenix Judicial Selection Advisory Committee and is a past chairperson of the Statewide Interpreter Committee.

She has been a judge since 1990 and has served with the Criminal, Civil, Juvenile and Family Court departments. Before her appointment to the bench, she was a deputy commissioner with the Arizona Department of Real Estate.

On being asked about her plans as southeast presiding judge, she said, "I do not plan on making any immediate changes. Judge Jean Hoag served with excellence. I only ask for patience and guidance as I go about learning a complex job."

Judge Hoag served the past four years as southeast presiding judge. She and Judge Arellano will exchange assignments, with Judge Hoag assuming Judge Arellano's juvenile court calendar at the Mesa Superior Court facility.

New Family Court Presiding Judge

Judge Norman Davis is the newly-appointed family court presiding judge for the trial courts of Maricopa County. Davis will continue to support the many improvements introduced by his predecessors while adding a few more of his own.

One of his ideas currently under development is an electronic interactive web-based legal forms program. This will allow self-represented litigants to prepare forms on-line without missing work or traveling to the courthouse and will eventually replace the paper forms now available at the court's Self Service Center.

Another time-saving addition to family court procedure will be the introduction of a walk-in default calendar.

"A significant portion of family cases are not contested and merely need a brief hearing with the court to have the case completed," says Davis. "Currently, a hearing is scheduled several weeks after a request is made for the hearing to allow the court to review the file and determine that all legal requirements have been satisfied. A walk-in default calendar will allow a litigant to call in a request for a default hearing on one day, supply some basic information and, if all is in order, come to the courthouse the following day for the hearing."

In the past few years, a case management program has focused on active and early intervention to encourage early conflict

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resolution in a less hostile environment with great success.

"With the tremendous growth that has occurred over the last few years in Maricopa County, the courts will need to continue to adapt more efficient methods of conflict resolution," says Davis.

"I would like to encourage more family-friendly methods of conflict resolution that remove parents and children from a hostile court environment as soon as possible," he says. "In many cases we need less process, but more focused and individualized attention to the cases as soon as possible before the conflict accelerates and the family relationship deteriorates."

Davis has been a judge since 1995 and has served with the civil, criminal and family court departments. Before his appointment to family court as presiding judge, he was the presiding judge of the Northwest Regional Center in Surprise, Arizona.

Trial Courts of Maricopa County Names New Human Resources Director

Phillip Hanley has been named director for the newly consolidated Human Resources Department of the trial courts of Maricopa County. His position encompasses oversight of all human resources responsibility for the Superior Court in Maricopa County, justice courts, adult probation and juvenile probation.

Hanley is a seasoned professional with more than 23 years of experience in a wide variety of human resource issues and employee relations. Most recently he worked as the director of human resources for both ATC Phoenix (formerly known as Phoenix Transit System) and the Oklahoma City Public Transit System.

"I've always had a keen interest in the judicial system and look forward to being a part of it," says Hanley, adding that his approach to human resources for the trial courts will be to help improve the selection process, provide the right training, and help employees understand how their specific job helps support the overall mission – to better serve the needs of the court.

Hanley serves on a number of boards that deal with human resource issues, industrial relations, and labor relations at both local and national levels.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in business and a masters in business administration from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Northwest Regional Court Center Under New Leadership

Overseeing four judicial officers and anticipating the addition of four justice courts keeps Judge Colleen McNally busy as the presiding judge at the Northwest Regional Court Center in Surprise, Arizona. Appointed to her new judicial role in January, McNally initially restructured caseload assignments to improve efficiency.

"Two judges hear full family court calendars, I hear civil, probate and family court matters, and our commissioner hears uncontested hearings and emergency matters in all three departments," she says.

"There are about 40 people working for the court and the Clerk of the Court in Surprise," says McNally. "We are also providing use of our facility to the El Mirage City Court. After their courthouse was destroyed in a fire, they needed a temporary facility in which to operate."

A pilot project in family court is being implemented to provide early judicial involvement in contested cases.

"Reducing conflict between parents benefits children in divorce cases," she says. "The project has proven to be effective in encouraging settlement and resolution without protracted litigation."

McNally is a member of CourtTalk, a court sponsored speakers bureau and recently spoke to the Sun City Lions Club and a Tough Love parenting support group.

"The other judges and I enjoy speaking to community groups about the law and the legal system," she says. "Being a judge can sometimes feel isolating, so it's important to connect with people who are not a part of the legal system and who are not having legal problems."

She was a superior court commissioner for the court from 1997 until her appointment as a judge in 2001 and has served with civil, probate, and family court departments.

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National Center for State Courts

From Center Court: A Newsletter for the Court Community...

Court Professionals Graduate from Rigorous Court Management Program

Submitted by Deborah Schaefer, court administrator, Superior Court in Yavapai County, with permission from NCSC

Twelve court professionals from around the country recently become fellows of the Institute for Court Management (ICM), which is the educational arm of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The graduates appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court May 14 as part of graduation ceremonies from the National Center's prestigious Court Executive Development Program (CEDP).



CEDP graduates from Arizona with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. From left to right: Mark Stodola, Deputy Court Manager of the Criminal Division of the Tempe Municipal Court; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Deborah Schaefer, Court Administrator, Superior Court in Yavapai County; Gary Krcmarik,



Entire CEDP 2004 graduating class with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 5/14/04 at the US Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.

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This year's graduates include:

- * Susan M. Byrnes, court administrator for the St. Louis County Courts in Minnesota
- * Patricia Garcia Duggan, court administrator for the Third Judicial Circuit in South Dakota
- * Terry F. Holtrop, case management manager for the Kent County Michigan Courts and the 17th Circuit
- * Jerome M.P. Kole, trial court administrator for Midland County Courts in Michigan
- * Gary L. Krcmarik, court administrator for Coconino County, Superior Court in Arizona
- * Kevin Lane of the San Diego Court of Appeals
- * Kellye Mashburn, research analyst for the Administrative Office of the Courts in Little Rock. Arkansas
- * Stacy Parke, deputy court administrator for the 47th District Court in Michigan
- * Dawn Marie Rubio, court management consultant for the National Center for State Courts in Denver
- * Deborah Schaefer, court administrator, Yavapai County Superior Court in Arizona
- * Henry Stacey, assignment commissioner for Hamilton County's Court of Common Pleas in Ohio
- * Mark Stodola, deputy court manager for the Criminal Division of the Tempe Municipal Court in Arizona

CEDP is the only program of its kind in the United States and was established more than 30 years ago, in part, by U.S. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in his call for improving the management of state court administration. The intensive educational program consists of four phases, and those who successfully complete all four phases become fellows of ICM, which better prepares them for management and leadership positions in the courts. Since the first class of CEDP graduates in 1970, more than 1,000 court professionals from 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and 12 foreign countries have become fellows.

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